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ELECTION COMMISSIONER LAVASA NAMED V-P OF ADB

Ashok Lavasa was next in line to head the poll panel. He can take the new job only after resigning from his current position

2ND PERSON TO LEAVE POLL PANEL MID-WAY

Lavasa, who would have retired as the Chief Election Commissioner in October 2022, would be the second Election Commissioner to step down from the poll panel before the completion of his term. The last time an Election Commissioner put in his papers was in 1973 when CEC Nagendra Singh was appointed a judge in the International Court of Justice, The Hague

HAD OPPOSED CLEAN CHIT TO MODI, SHAH

- During the 2019 LS polls, Lavasa dissented with ECI's decision to give a clean chit to PM Narendra Modi and former BJP president Amit Shah on charges of violating the Model Code of Conduct
- Election Commission sources said Lavasa is yet to resign from the poll body as he is due to join the ADB only in September | P8

CEC

SUSHIL CHANDRA WILL NOW BE THE NEXT IN THE LINE FOR THE TOP POST

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Don blinks, lets foreign students have visa power

India has the second largest student community in the US only after China

PUSHKAR BANAKAR @New Delhi

FOLLOWING outrage and several lawsuits, the Donald Trump administration on Tuesday rescinded the order that would have barred the entry of foreign students, with full online classes, into the US.

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement, in an order on July 6, had said no that foreign students would be allowed to continue residence or enter the US if their classes had shifted completely to the online mode due to the coronavirus pandemic. The move was likely to affect thousands of Indian students.

Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on July 8 dragged the Trump administration to court, saying that the order was both reckless and unlawful.

On Tuesday, before the hearing in a Boston district court, the judge announced that the US government and the two universities had come to an agreement to drop the new guidelines and restore status quo. "The government has agreed to rescind the decision as well as any implementation of the directive," District Judge Allison Burroughs said.

Pressure on the Trump administration mounted after tech majors Google and Facebook also supported the lawsuit filed by the two universities. In all, 17 states had filed lawsuits against the order with 136 Congressman also urging Trump to reverse it.

According to Indian estimates, there are around 2.5 lakh Indian students in the US and they contribute significantly to the revenue of many universities. The order reversal has sent a wave of relief among the students. P9

Our deputy CM and PCC president himself was doing the deal and giving statements that there was no horse-trading... Speaking good English or giving a byte is not everything
- Ashok Gehlot, chief minister

Rebels on notice, Gehlot goes for the kill

RAJESH ASNANI @Jaipur

A day after taking away all party and government positions from Sachin Pilot and his loyalist lawmakers to crush their revolt, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot went for the kill, as Assembly Speaker C P Joshi slapped disqualification notices on them.

It also brought clarity on the size of the rebellion, as notices were served on 19 lawmakers, holding them accountable for anti-party activities for skipping two back-to-back Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meetings. They have till Friday noon to respond in writing. Pilot was Gehlot's deputy and PCC president till the axe fell.

Rajasthan Congress incharge Avinash Pandey turned the screw further, saying if the 19 MLAs do not respond within two days, it will be presumed that they are giving up their CLP membership.

While the dominant Gehlot camp hopes a few rebels would jump ship, it expects the disqualification of the rest will bring down the simple majority mark in the Assembly (101 now) and help clear the floor test. Gehlot claimed he already has the support of 106, including allies and Independents.

For his part, Pilot said he had no plans of joining the BJP. "I would like to make it clear that I have no plans to join the BJP," Pilot said.

But Gehlot was rather blunt in his counter. "Horse-trading was being done in Jaipur in the run-up to the Rajya Sabha elections. We have proof. We had to keep people at a hotel for 10 days at that point. If we had not done that, the same thing that is happening in Manesar now would have happened back then," the Chief Minister pointed out.

As for the Congress high command, it wanted all the rebels to refuse the BJP's hospitality in Haryana's Manesar resort and return, if there was to be any possibility of rapprochement. "Stop all conversations with them (BJP) and come back to your home in Jaipur," Congress spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala told Pilot. P7

EXPRESS READ

Infosys Q1 net profit rises 12.4% to ₹4,272 cr

Bengaluru: Infosys on Wednesday posted a 12.4% rise in the first quarter consolidated net profit to ₹4,272 crore, helped by large deals. It said its FY21 revenue is likely to grow by up to 2%. The company's revenue grew 8.5% to ₹23,665 crore in the quarter under review. P10

CBSE results: B'luru region comes third

Bengaluru: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Wednesday declared results for the Class 10 examination. Bengaluru region, covering the entire state, has bagged the third place in terms of pass percentage, with 98.23%, out of 16 regions. A total of 91.46% of students passed the exams in the country, compared to 91.10% last year. P5

Reliance Industries' Jio creates 5G solution

New Delhi: Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries on Wednesday said Jio has built a Made-in-India 5G solution that can be ready for field deployment next year. P10

LAC talks were tough, went on for 14 hrs

MAYANK SINGH @New Delhi

A day after the 14-hour marathon meeting of the Lieutenant General-level commanders of India and China, there is no official word on its outcome, indicating the tough nature of the talks. The Army is still analysing the discussions, which began on Tuesday 11:30 am and stretched up to Wednesday 2 am, sources said.

A senior Army officer said, "Internal deliberations are still on. Only after that can something concrete be said."

Depsang and Finger-4 were the important stress points for deliberations during the meeting between Indian Army's Lt Gen Harinder Singh and Major Gen Lin Liu of the Chinese PLA at Chushul.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has decided to visit the frontlines both at the Line of Actual Control with China and the Line of Control with Pakistan on July 17 and 18.

China claims 'progress'

China on said on Wednesday that the talks achieved "progress" on promoting "further disengagement" of the border troops to de-escalate tensions

A person aware of the developments said the minister may announce the salient points of LAC deliberations when he visits Leh on July 17.

On Wednesday, a Defence Acquisition Council meeting chaired by the minister granted special powers to the Armed Forces to purchase weapons and equipment worth up to ₹300 crore to meet their emergent operational requirements. "This will shrink the procurement timelines and ensure placement of orders within six months and commencement of deliveries within one year," the Ministry of Defence said.

With the week-long lockdown kicking in and roads emptying out, a man puts away a horse-drawn cart near KR Market in Bengaluru on Tuesday | SHRIRAM BHAT

HOW THE DISTRICTS ARE DOING IT

All districts will observe complete lockdown on Sundays and night curfew from 8 pm to 5 am (REPORTS: P2 & 3)

FULL LOCKDOWN

(EXCEPT MEDICAL SHOPS, HEALTHCARE SERVICES)

Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural: Essential services allowed between 5 am and 12 noon, till 5 am on July 22	**Dakshina Kannada:** Essential services between 8 am and 11 am till 5 am on July 23	**Hubballi-Dharwad:** Essential services between 5 am and 12 noon till midnight on July 24	**Shivamogga:** Essential services between 5 am and 2 pm until further orders **Kalaburagi:** Essential services from 10 am to 3 pm till July 20

RESTRICTIONS / PARTIAL LOCKDOWN

Udupi: Borders sealed till July 31
Kodagu: Night curfew between 6 pm and 6 am till July 31
C'magaluru: Night curfew from 7 pm to 5 am, inter-district movement banned
Gadag, Kolar, C'ballapur: Voluntary lockdown (2 pm-5 am)
Hassan: Voluntary partial lockdown
Belagavi: Week-long lockdown in Athani, Kagwad, Nippani, Mudalgi and Gokak
Bagalkot: 6 pm-6 am Curfew
Vijayapura: Weekend lockdown

MP police assault Dalit family after suicide bid during eviction drive

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bhopal

IN what appeared to be an attempt to normalise excesses, the Guna district administration in Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday defended police assaults on a Dalit couple who had attempted suicide after their standing crops were crushed to evict them.

The state government later tried to limit damage by suspending the Guna District Collector and Superintendent of Police, while ordering a high-level probe. The assault happened in the Jagatpur Chak area of Guna on Tuesday. Also, the couple's children were roughly pushed away and their relatives allegedly assaulted by the police.

While the Revenue Department claimed the family was squatting on land allotted for a college, the Dalits claimed they were doing share-cropping on the land since long and had paid ₹3 lakh for it.

"We've been farming on it for a long time. When our standing crop was destroyed by a JCB, we didn't have any option other than committing suicide. We've a debt burden of ₹3 lakh on our heads," the couple Ram Kumar and Savitri Bai said. The excavator was brought in as the Revenue Department wanted them evicted so as to build a boundary wall.

Before his suspension, Collector S Vishwanath said, "Our team acted only after the couple consumed pesticide to rush them to hospital. Had they not acted, the couple could have died and the situation snowballed. The couple is now out of danger." According to the administration, around 45 bighas at that site were grabbed by local mafia don Gabbu Pardi who had loaned ₹3 lakh to the Dalit family and used them as a front.

SAVING LIVES

State adds new tool to cut Covid mortality

RAMU PATIL @ Bengaluru

BOGGED down by the surging numbers, the health authorities are now working on a plan to cut the time taken to provide treatment to Covid-19 patients, specially the high-risk category.

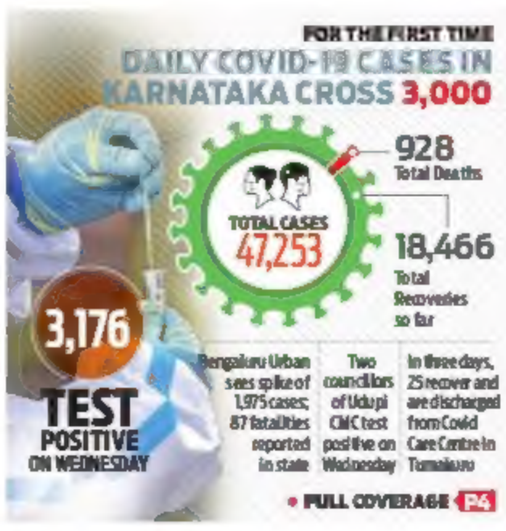
Laboratories conducting the Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) tests on samples will be directed to mention the Cycle Threshold (CT) level in the test reports, which will give an indication of the viral load among positive patients.

The move is likely to help provide timely treatment to critical patients and minimise mortality, especially at a time when deaths due to Covid-19 have almost doubled from 470 on July 8 to 928 on July 15. This has happened mainly due to late reporting at hospitals.

The CT level, along with symptoms and comorbidities, will help doctors decide which Covid-19-positive individuals need more urgent medical attention than others — a process called triaging.

Senior IAS officer Dr Trilok Chandra, who heads the Covid-19 Critical Care Support Committee, said directives will be issued to laboratories conducting the RT-PCR tests on Thursday.

CONTINUED ON: P5


FOR THE FIRST TIME
DAILY COVID-19 CASES IN KARNATAKA CROSS 3,000
928
Total Deaths
TOTAL CASES
47,253
18,466
Total Recoveries so far
3,176
TEST POSITIVE ON WEDNESDAY
Bengaluru Urban sees spike of 1,975 cases; 87 fatalities reported in state
Two councillors of Udupi CMC test positive on Wednesday
In three days, 25 recover and are discharged from Covid Care Centre in Tumakuru
• FULL COVERAGE P4

Department of Health and Family Welfare

Shri B. S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister

TAKING A COVID-19 SWAB TEST?

Home Isolation is your responsibility

As a matter of abundant caution and to ensure safety of your loved ones, any person awaiting results from a COVID-19 SWAB TEST must remain in home quarantine till the test results are available.

HELPLINES for COVID-19 or other Health Emergencies

APTHAMITRA	AMBULANCE	GET HELP	HELPLINE
14410	108	1912	104
COVID-19 only helpline, telemedicine & referral to hospital	All health emergencies including COVID-19	For grievances related to denial of hospital admission for COVID-19	Information regarding all general health issues

Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare Shri B. Sriramulu visiting COVID-19 Government Hospital

CAUTION WILL HELP US ENDURE

#KarnatakaFightsCorona

Health For All, Health Everywhere